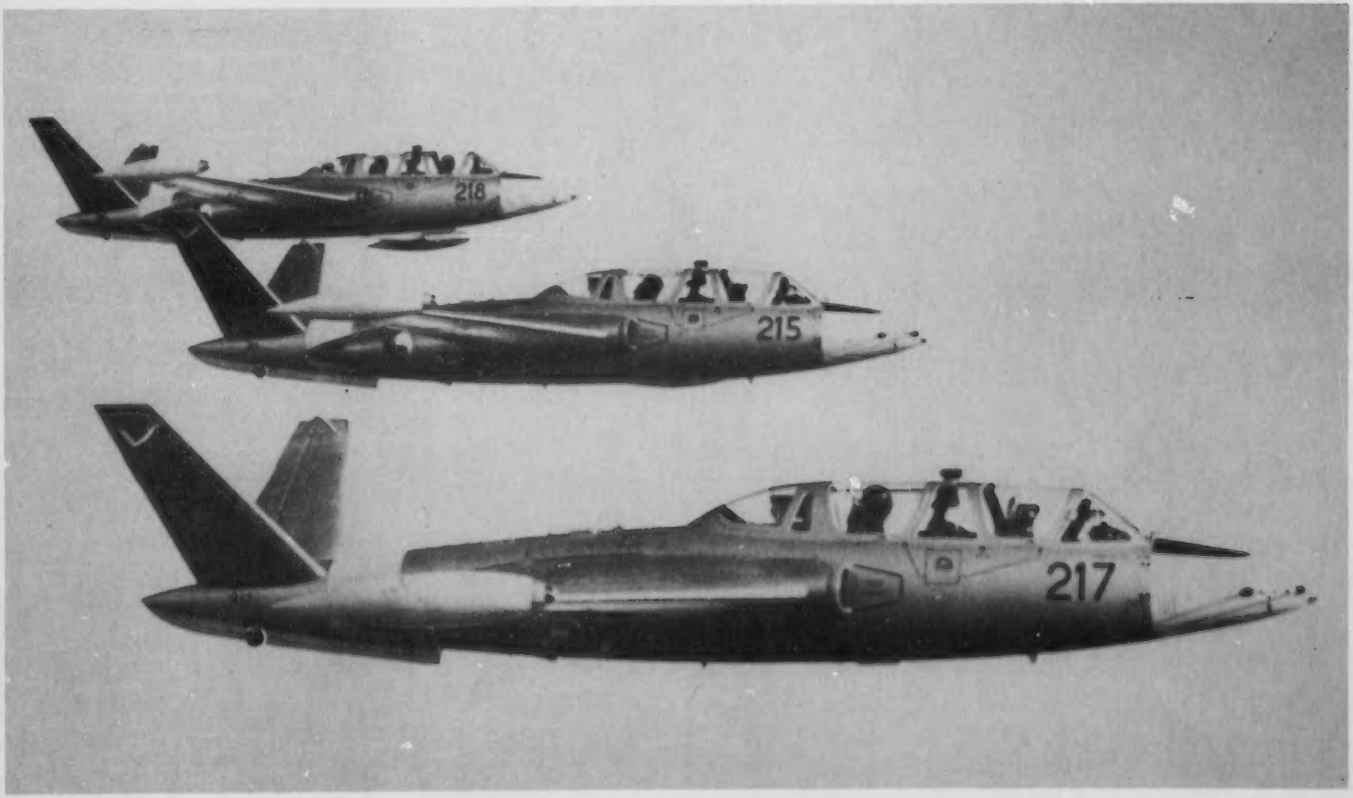
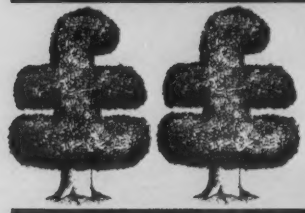
AN COSANTOIR

THE IRISH DEFENCE JOURNAL APRIL, 1979 30p



New Ireland Linked Funds

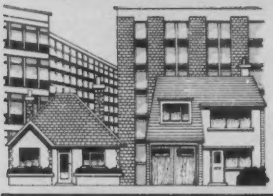
Performance



Evergreen Fund

(January 1978 - January 1979) +25.0%

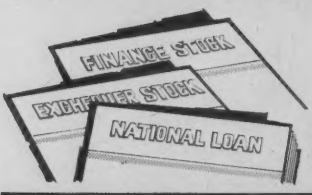
(June 1971 - January 1979) +113.5%



Property Fund

(January 1978 - January 1979) +16.0%

(February 1975 - January 1979) +67.3%



Gilt Edge Fund

(January 1978 - January 1979) +5.7%

(December 1976 - January 1979) +42.5%

Note: The value of the units in a Fund is directly related to the market performance of the Fund and it may rise or fall with investment conditions. The performance of the three Funds for the past year and since inception is shown above.

Enquiries to Field Service Division: Phone Dublin 776881

NEW IRELAND FOR LIFE ASSURANCE

Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

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CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING

Sgt. N. Williams
2 F.A. Regt.

ONE of the greatest difficulties soldiers have to-day is finding accommodation when they get married. Many end up in flats or sub-tenants in houses usually paying exhorbitant rent, sometimes as much as 40% of their pay. Many soldiers should consider building their own houses by means of a co-operative scheme. What is a co-operative scheme? In this article I hope to draw soldiers attention to Co-operative Housing in Ireland.

The strong preference for private ownership of housing in Ireland has resulted in the formation of housing co-operatives concerned with organising the building of houses for eventual ownership by each individual member of the building co-operative. In Ireland the shortage of medium sized houses at reasonable prices has resulted in the formation of co-operatives by people in need of housing, particularly younger married or engaged couples, with a view to providing homes for themselves and others of a good standard at prices they can afford. In a number of co-operatives formed during the late 1960s members already housed have been willing to pass on their experience and knowledge by continuing to serve in co-operative managements. The interest of such members has led to the successful completion of a number of housing schemes in different parts of the country following the formation of the National Association of Building Co-operatives in 1970.

The official government policy is one of encouragement of co-operative housing effort, but as the assistance of local authorities is essential, particularly in the provision of building sites and house loan finance, it is very important that each new housing co-operative develops a good relationship with the local authority officials. Equally important is the willingness of the local authorities to adopt a positive attitude towards people in need of housing who want to help themselves through co-operative effort.

The formation and operation of a housing co-operative is a complex business. A proper management structure and financial accountancy system is essential. The members must be committed to working together for their co-operative, undertaking a fair share of all the responsibilities so that by their mutual effort the co-operative will be successful. Co-operative activity is the joint or mutual effort made by the members to achieve their objectives (e.g., organising the building of houses for themselves and others) and is based on the concept of a self-help approach to the needs of the community. Co-operative activity requires for its success the willingness of each member to work on an equal footing with his fellow members and to adopt a 'we together' rather than a 'me first' attitude.

A **Co-operative housing society** is a self help, non-profit organisation owned and controlled by its members for the purpose of building houses of a good standard at reasonable prices.

The basis on which a housing co-operative is formed and operates should accord with the Co-operative principles which are accepted internationally as the foundation rules of Co-operative movements.

These Principles as applied to co-operative housing are as follows:-

Open and voluntary membership
Democratic form of organisation and government.
Neutrality in politics and religion.
Non-profit business operations.
Education for Co-operation to be a priority.
Surpluses to be re-invested or distributed as equal dividends to members.

Housing co-operatives are formed by and are open to membership by people from all walks of life and all types of groups, community, industrial and fraternal, who are willing by co-operative action to achieve the aims and objectives of the housing co-operative.

The Rules of the co-operative housing society should be based on the Co-operative principles and establish the rights of the shareholding members to the collective ownership of the co-operative, but provide a workable, democratic constitution for the society's operation in the service of its members and the common good.

The Structure of a Housing Co-operative

1. Members - who are the shareholders and owners of the co-operative in whom ultimate control is vested.
   Each shareholding member has the right to attend General Meetings of the Society, has one vote irrespective of the number of shares held in the Society and may be elected to the Management Committee.
   Members are a basic group in the co-operative. They bring it into existence, own it and control it. The co-operative exists to serve their needs. Thus it is in their interest to see that it is strong, efficient and responsive to their needs by regular attendance at Meetings and active participation in its affairs.

2. Management Committee - is the group of members elected to represent all the co-operatives's shareholders in the conducting of the business affairs of the co-operative but at all times remains responsible to the members and must work within the Rules of the Society.
   The Management Committee elects/appoints the Officers - Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The Management Committee also arranges the appointment of a Solicitor and is responsible for the making of contracts in connection with house building etc.

Advice and guidance about the proper management of housing co-operatives is available to co-operatives affiliated to the **National Association of Building Co-operatives.**

Membership of a Housing Co-operative - may be obtained by the submission of an application form, properly completed, to the local co-operatives Secretary who in turn submits the application to the Management Committee for a decision. This application should be accompanied by the payment of an entrance fee and an initial payment for shares at 1 each. The entrance fee is used to meet the Society's administration costs.

Housing of members can only be considered after they have paid for fifty £1 shares and saved £1,000 in **The Co-operative Housing Savings and Credit Union Ltd.**, which organises savings groups (with individual dividend and interest earning accounts) in each affiliated housing co-operative. This means that the person who is only beginning to save for his/her house can be accepted into membership when the required shareholding and savings have been paid and member's name is entered in the Society's housing list.

Advantages of Membership of a Co-operative Housing Society

1. Membership of a housing co-operative provides the opportunity for a person in need of housing to join with others in need to obtain a home at more reasonable cost - strength in unity.
2. The co-operative housing system allows the co-operative house purchaser to pool incidental costs, such as legal fees etc. involved in obtaining a house.
3. Participation in a housing co-operative enables a house purchaser to get the maximum benefit from the State and Local Authority grant aid available for new houses. Properly organised housing co-operatives give access to information and guidance about the various types of house loans and grants available to assist co-operative house purchasers.
4. Co-operative house-building methods provide the opportunity for a person in need of housing to have a say in the planning and costing of his/her house. The type of house to be built is decided by the members of the co-operative, bearing in mind their financial and planning authority requirements.
5. The concentration by housing co-operatives on providing houses of a good standard at reasonable prices gives the opportunity for people with limited incomes to achieve home ownership.
6. Housing co-operatives provide the opportunity for a person to render unselfish service to his/her community, fellow workers or neighbours. Many members of co-operatives who are already housed have, in recent years, continued to provide their experience and knowledge in the management of further co-operative house building schemes: This provides the basis for an ongoing co-operative housing movement and is a very useful form of community social work.
7. Housing co-operatives also provide the means by which members may learn about business methods, building techniques, local government, corporate procedures and decision making; so they strengthen their self reliance and confidence in themselves. These are the necessary ingredients for the growth of a strong and safe democracy. Co-operatives don't just build houses, they build communities.

Housing co-operatives cannot build cheap houses but certainly properly organised co-operatives can provide houses of a good standard at reasonable prices. Careful comparison of co-operative houses in terms of floor area, room sizes and standards of finish clearly indicates a 10 cost saving can be obtained on gross houses prices using co-operative methods.

National Association of Building Co-operatives (N.A.B. Co.)

N.A.B. Co., is the central union of the Co-operative Housing Movement in Ireland and functions as the representative, organising and advisory body for its affiliated local house-building co-operative societies which together form Ireland's largest non-profit voluntary housing association. N.A.B. Co., is itself a co-operative society and its membership consists of affiliated housing co-operatives who are the shareholders and collective owners of the Association.

Apart from acting as a representative body N.A.B. Co., has developed various services to assist the formation and operation of housing co-operatives. These N.A.B. Co., services provide facilities which are not easily organised by small local co-operatives but are made possible by the pooling of resources in a central national union. Affiliation to N.A.B. Co., also provides the opportunity for new co-operative housing groups to come into regular contact with other more experienced housing co-operators who have already completed co-operative house building projects.

Affiliation to the National Association of Building Co-operatives gives access to the following N.A.B. Co. services:-

Education and Adivsory Services - assists the proper formation and management of housing co-operatives. Detailed guidance about the administration, including financial accountancy, requirements of a co-operative are provided through this service.

Design and Construction Service - Professional, architectural, planning and costing for co-operative house-building projects as required by affiliated housing co-operatives.

Insurance Services - provides home and mortgage protection insurance for individual members of co-operatives and certain other types of insurance which may be required by co-operative housing societies.

Savings - provide the key to home ownership and the importance of this has been recognised by the formation of the Co-operative housing financial organisation known as **The Co-operative Housing Savings and Credit Union Ltd.** (Registered under the Credit Union Act, 1966) which provides the opportunity for every member of an affiliated housing co-operative to participate in an easy savings scheme and have the benefit of credit facilities (depending of good savings record) to assist in the purchase of a co-operative house. Further details and leaflets on co-operatives are available from N.A.B. Co. at the address given at end of the article.

FIRST STEPS TOWARDS THE PROPER FORMATION OF A CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY

Persons interested in accepting management responsibilities for a housing co-operative should first form a study group to participate in the essential education process required to ensure that the co-operative is properly formed and that the management committee and officers fully understand all the various aspects of co-operative house building. This Education work is usually organised into two sessions of two hours each as follows:-

SESSION 1:

1st Hour

Definition of what a housing co-operative actually is; Service which a housing co-operative should give and the advantages of membership. The structure of a housing co-operative membership and management Committee.

2nd Hour

Building land requirements — Planning, Financing co-operative house building, Savings, loans and grants. Organising construction.

SESSION 2:

Participants in this session are required to pay £1 each which is used to cover printing costs and travelling expenses etc., involved in providing for this training course.

1st Hour

Rules of a housing co-operative - rights of members - voting.

Legal incorporation, responsibilities of officers, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Housing co-operative financial records, Annual Returns.

Housing co-operative management.

2nd Hour

Discussion about local circumstances and requirements.

Questions and Answers. Summary.

Additional discussion meetings can be arranged as required.

Following completion of this education training course arrangements are made for the formal adoption of the Rules of the New Society and the application for registration under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts. Affiliation to N.A.B. Co. is also arranged at this stage.

Venue: Arrangements for the two educational sessions are the responsibility of the local group. N.A.B. Co. would need at least 10 days notice of the time and date of such sessions because of commitments to other new groups. These sessions could be organised on a Sunday morning/afternoon time span or on two week night evenings but in this case it would be necessary to arrange two evenings a week apart.

Conclusion

The following are some of the achievement of the co-operative house building movement to date:-

Carrick-on-Suir, Co Tipperary	3 Schemes to date completed, a total of 102 houses.
Waterford	Several schemes completed, a total of 97 houses.
Fethard, Co. Tipperary	10 houses
Athlone	2 Schemes, a total of 20 houses
Cork	14 Bungalows, 8 houses
DUBLIN	
Limekiln Farm, Dublin	6-18 houses
Clondalkin, Co. Dublin	15 houses
Ballybrack, Co. Dublin	123 houses completed, prices ranged from £7,000 to £11,000 — 6 more at present near completion.
Balinteer	6 houses completed.

A total of 600 houses were completed up to 1975. 1976 was a difficult year for the co-operative movement but with the introduction of new loan schemes in November 1976 and June 1977 the co-operatives were back in business. New co-operatives are being formed in Galway city and Nenagh and 3 co-operatives are being formed in Gaeltacht areas. New projects are also expected to start in the Dublin area.

There is no information available as to how many, if any, personnel of the Defence Forces have participated to co-operative building schemes but according to N.A.B. Co. the figure is believed to be small. In these days when it is so very hard for young married soldiers to get houses this system of achieving "house ownership" might well be the answer. Personnel might do well to consider either forming a co-operative or indeed joining an existing co-operative. Anyone interested should contact Secretary, N.A.B. Co., 11c Milltown Rd., Dublin 6. Phone: 962644.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to Mr. Bernard Thompson, Sec., N.A.B. Co. for his invaluable help in providing leaflets and information to write this article.

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Age

It would be foolish and rash to claim that age improved intelligence, especially if dotage and senile decay are taken into account. But obviously, experience is most likely to be increased with age, and an intelligent person may well draw on his experience to point guidelines when trying to distinguish right from wrong.
(Current Events, India)

OFFICER PROMOTIONS — MARCH 1979

Name	To	From	To
O'Brien, Martin J. R.	Brig-Gen.	OC, E. Comd.	Retains
Crawford, Vincent	Col.	Comd. E.O., HQ, E. Comd.	O.C., 2 Bde.
Quigley, Edward	Col.	Comd. E.O., C. Comd.	Comdt., Inf. Sch., Mil. Col.
McDwyer, Hugh B.	Col.	Comdt., Cadet Sch., Mil. Col.	UNIFIL — Deputy Chief of Staff
Kealy, Raphael S.	Lt.-Col.	Conductor, Band, S.Comd. ASM.	Asst. Dir. ASM.
Begley, Patrick J.	Lt.-Col.	Asst. Comd. Adjt., H.Q., W. Comd.	O.C. & APM, HQ Depot, MPC.
Higgins, Michael T.	Lt.-Col.	O.C., CT Depot, S. Comd.	O.C., Ops. Staff, HQ, C. Comd.
Heaslip, Richard	Comdt.	2i/c 1 Mot. Sqdn.	Coy Comdr., HQ Coy, 12 Inf. Bn.
Dwyer, J.	Comdt.	Duty UNTSO	Retains
Quirke, Paul N.	Comdt.	H.Q., E. Comd.	Retains
McCarthy, John A.	Comdt.	Tech. Offr. RECCE Group, HQ Coy, 44 Inf. Inf. Bn., UNIFIL	Retains
Boyle, Patrick	Comdt.	OC, 21 Hvy Mor. Bty., 1 Fld. Arty Regt.	SO, HQ, C. Comd.
Coughlan, Martin M.	Comdt.	OC, 5 Fld. MP Coy.	2 i/c, 1 Garr MP Coy.

N.C.O.'s PROMOTIONS — MARCH

C/S	Costello, M.	1 Garr, S&T.	BQMS.
CQMS	O'Hara, J.	6 Bn.	BQMS
Sgt.	Bremin, S.	CT Depot, S. Comd.	C/S
Sgt.	Brady, M.	2 Fld. Sig.	C/S
Sgt.	Farragher, F.	D MPC	C/S
Sgt.	O'Reilly, P.	Depot Ord.	C/S
Sgt.	Cogley, T.	Depot Ord.	CQMS
Sgt.	Lynch, P.	4 FAR	CQMS
PO	Byrne, J.	N.S.	CPO
PO	Keenan, P.	N.S.	CPO

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EDUCATION IN THE DEFENCE FORCES (Part III)

Capt. P. Young, AHQ

Cavalry Corps

Professional Education

A wide range of professional courses are held in the Cavalry School in the Curragh for Officers and other ranks. Leadership courses include Troop Commander (26 weeks) and Standard Courses (16 weeks) for Officers, and Troop Leader courses (8 weeks) for NCOs. Subjects include tactics, leadership, staff duties and administration. Qualifications are based on seniority, suitability and aptitude. Selection for these courses is so stringent that the failure rate is minimal.

Technical Education

There are various courses related to the working of the Corps again held in the Cavalry School in the Curragh. All ranks may undergo such courses as Gunnery (12 weeks), Radio (12 weeks), Technical (6-8 weeks), M.T. Instructors (8 weeks), M/C Instructors (8 weeks), APC (Driver and Instructors) and Tank (Driver, Gunner and Maintenance) courses. There is also a Fitters course for Troopers (30 weeks). Prospects for successful students depend on vacancies in the Corps. In the case of Fitters courses, students can be apprenticed under the AnCO scheme. Success rate on all courses averages 80-90%.

General Education

During the 1977/78 academic year, the following numbers of NCOs and men were studying for the following examinations.

2nd Class Certificate	1
Group Certificate	1
Intermediate Certificate	1
Leaving Certificate	5

Six others were attending an AnCO Motor Mechanics course part-time.

External and Overseas Courses

Selected Officers attend three year courses in Bolton Street which lead to the award of a diploma in Motor Industry Management (A.M.I.M.I.). Overseas, selected Officers attend three month courses in Bovington in England (RAC Troop Leaders Armoured Recce Courses). There are also Armour Captains Courses held at Saumur in France which takes four months. Successful students are bound to give a service commitment in relation to the cost and duration of the course undertaken.

Corps of Engineers

Professional Education

Courses under this heading include assault Pioneer Courses (8 weeks) for which students must have reached the rank of Lieutenant or Sergeant, sub-courses for Cadets and the Artillery, Cavalry and Infantry Corps (1-3 weeks). Fire fighting (2 weeks) for Officers and NCOs, Fire Crew Courses (6 weeks) for those who have completed a Combat Engineers Course and EOR Courses (1-2 weeks) for sergeants and experienced Corporals. All these courses are run by the School of Military Engineering in the Curragh.

Technical Education

Technical courses which are again run by the School of Military Engineering enable successful students to hold various technical appointments in the Corps and they include the following.

a. **Officers**
   - **(i) Young Officers and Standard Officers Engineer Courses (13 and 17 weeks).**
   - **(ii)** Plant Management Engineers Course (2-3 weeks)
   - (iii) Refresher courses (2 weeks)

b. **Other ranks**
   - (i) Basic and Senior Engineering NCOs courses (11 and 3-6 weeks respectively).
   - (ii) Combat Engineer Courses (8 weeks)
   - (iii) Bridging (2-3 weeks) and Plant Operations Courses (6 weeks)

There is no commitment necessary for successful students.

General Education

There are 14 other ranks studying for the 2nd Class Certificates during 1977/78 and the following were full time students at the AnCO training centre in Raheny.

2 - Bricklaying Course
2 - Plasterers Course
2 - Painting and Decorating

External and Overseas Courses

Selected technical officers of the Corps attend the following courses which are held at Chatterdrive Barracks in England.

(i) Engineers Young Officers Courses (22 weeks)
(ii) Engineers Plant Management Courses (3 weeks)

Officers also attend short courses and demonstrations abroad which relate to Engineering subjects.

Signals Corps

Professional/Technical Education

The School of Signals in the Curragh run two courses for officers, a Qualifying Course (6 months) and a Standard Course (4 months). There is also a Standard NCOs Course (6 weeks) held by the School. Subjects in the officers courses include Mathematics, Radio Systems, Electrotechnology, Radio Concepts, as well as practical exercises with Signals equipment. Subjects on the NCOs course include Radio Principles, Station Management, Communication Centres Procedure, Voice and Telegraphy Procedure and the practical use of Signals equipment. Success in these courses is essential for further promotion.

General Education

Last year Corps personnel were studying for the following examinations.

2nd Class Certificate	4 Students
Group Certificate	2 Students
Intermediate Certificate	1 Student
Leaving Certificate	3 Students

External Courses

Selected Signals officers attend Kevin Street College of Technology, for three years studying for a Technicians Engineering Diploma while other ranks may attend Regional Technical Colleges to study for a National Diploma in Electronic Engineering which is also a three year course.

Ordnance Corps

Professional Education

Purely military courses are not run by the Corps though there is naturally a military element in most syllabi.

Technical Education

The ordnance corps is responsible mainly for the provision, inspection, repair and maintenance of weapons, ammunition and explosives, fire control, instruments, Radiac equipment, tentage and camp equipment and their accessories, it is also responsible for dealing with mines, bombs and improvised explosive devices. It has therefore a requirement for highly trained and skilled technicians and graduates in engineering and science and its training programme is geared to this end. Courses are mainly conducted in Ordnance School in Clancy Barracks in Dublin though some courses are run in the Curragh Camp. Success rate on the course is high - almost 90% because students who are selected have already proved their ability in the technical field.

Among the courses are

a. **Officers**
   (i) Young officers (1 year) and standard officers Course (6 months) and explosive ordnance disposal course. Students for these courses must be engineering or Science graduates.

b. **Other ranks**
   (i) Armourer (one year) for Junior trade fitters.
   (ii) Instrument Mechanic (one year) for electricians.
   (iii) Armament Artificers (Instrument and Radiac) for Instrument Mechanics (5 months)
   (iv) Armament Artificers (5 months) for Armourers
   (v) Ammunition Examiner (8 months) for 3 star soldiers.

General Education

During the 1977/78 school year personnel of the Corps were attending courses as follows:

(a) Group Cert - 2 students
(b) Leaving Cert - 4 students
(c) One NCO was studying for his H.Dip. privately.
(d) AnCO training
   (i) Motor Mechanic (full-time) - 3 students.
   (ii) Foundry Craft (full-time) - 1 student
   (iii) Sheet Metal (part-time) - 1 student
   (iv) Carpenters (part-time) - 1 student
   (v) City and Guilds (privately) - 1 student

All apprentices who are attending Ordnance Technical Courses in the Ordnance School are in day release to the Vocational Colleges of Technology. The courses they attend are designed primarily to enable them to get their Senior Trade Certificates. Opportunities to attend more advanced courses are also available to some students. Last year ten Fitters were attending Bolton Street and nine electricians were attending courses in Kevin Street.

External and Overseas Courses

Ordnance officers regularly attend courses run by foreign military schools on weapons, ammunition and explosives, workshop management, etc. Courses on specific equipments run by foreign armies or manufacturers are attended by officers and NCOs of the Corps as required.

NO RETURNS

By querying the need for returns and, where possible, suggesting alternative sources from which to obtain the necessary information, including computers, the BAOR team succeeded in obtaining agreement to the cancellation of more than fifty returns compiled by units with a further forty being subjected to close scrutiny with a view to possible cancellation.
(THE ARMY QUARTERLY - U.K.)

THE ORIGIN OF HANDBALL IN THE NATIONAL ARMY

J. Keogh-Clarke

Handball has alwys been a popular pastime with Army personnel. This should not cause any surprise, as some of our finest alleys are attached to Military Barracks, built, in the main, before 1922 in which connection it is interesting to recall, that it was a non handballer — W. G. Grace - born, 1845, the famous cricketer, after seeing handball played against a gable-end, recommended it to the British Government as a training for troops, which doubtless resulted in the erection of most of the alleys we have in our barracks today.

While there would be fewer alleys in barracks abroad, there was one on the Rock of Gibraltar, two in fact, if you take the one in the C.B.S. school there into account. Irish troops managed to improvise alleys in other countries, by running up side walls against gables or, rear walls of the barrack. Not the least interesting of these was in Cairo, in the shadow of the Pyramids, when the second Batt. Irish Guards, were stationed there, probably forty years ago. An artist's impression of the alley-drawn, from photographs of the barracks, provided by an ex-Guardsman who played there, is one of the most colourful items in my handball collection.

Many members of the Irish Volunteers, - the Old I.R.A. - participants in the Howth Gun Running - and the Irish Civil War, were keen players. They played, against an external wall, near the Fenian Plot, while in Kilmainham Jail, in the 1920's. Tournaments were held there in which the entrance fee was a few cigarettes! later - distributed as prizes to the winners. Competitions were also played at Arbour Hill and elsewhere.

These were the traditions that the ball players of our newly established National Army were conscious of, when they gathered at the famous Ballymun covered court on the 29th and 30th August, 1923, for the first ever, National Championships of an Army. The decision to play the games indoors, turned out to be a wise one, as rain fell for most of the two days, and beat so hard on the roof that it was almost impossible to hear the marker call the score. Some of the most promising players in the country took part, such as P. J. Devine of Boyle, a former Connaught singles and Munster doubles champion, Ml. Bowles of Limerick, brother of the great J. J. - former professional champion of Ireland, M. Corrigan, one of three brothers - noted Patrick Street (Dublin) players, and P. Robinson, member of a well known Green Street, Dublin, family of players.

While the standard of play throughout the games, was reported as very good, it was not considered quite up to championship class, yet, it was as good 'as could be expected for an initial meeting'. Most of the contestants were young and showed great promise. Capt. B. Whelan, whose experience proved a great advantage to him, was the outstanding handball player. He hailed from Ballymore Eustace, a great centre of the game, and was a Kildare inter-county junior representative. Sgt. J. Ryan, 'a past master of the game', was another fine player, whose accurate strokes were greatly admired, but who carried too many years for his younger opponents. Pte. Delahunty was the leading softball player, Lt. R. McGinn, was a lovely lefthander. He moved to Dublin, subsequently, where he played in the county championships for Clontarf club, and later the Andy Harty Club, which he founded. He and the writer, were partners in the Dublin senior H.B. Championship, 1934-35.

Pte. J. Delaney, was the noted handball maker.

Since the running of these initial competitions, the Army has given many fine players to the game, a number of whom have made names for themselves in open competition with some of the best players in the land. Now that other groups here have appeared on the International scene, maybe our Army handballers could meet their opposite numbers, say amongst American personnel, stationed in Britain, or on the continent, where alleys are available in Gymnasiums and Sports centres? Hopefully, this could in time, lead to Army European Championships, which would doubtless prove of much interest to our serving men, and would raise the standard of play, in the Army generally.

Members of the 5th Inf. Bn., Collins Bks., Dublin, on mortar instruction. L. to R.: Ptes. A. Norris, J. Donagh, S. Hallows, L. Dowling.

(Photo: P. Jones)

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'Is there anyone here who has been violated and who speaks English?'

by Edward Behr

Chief European reporter of **Newsweek**, *Edward Behr has for thirty years been a globe-trotter in search of news. The man who goes to observe on the spot. He has observed, in India, in Vietnam, in Algeria, in Portugal, in China, in Angola, in the Congo. 'Is there anyone here who has been violated and who speaks English?' Edward Behr heard that question bruited by a B.B.C. reporter among a crowd of Belgian refugees from the Congo, during the 1961 exodus. Dramatic and droll it sums up a profession: the sufferings that one comes in close contact with, the tragi-comedies of history that one observes, the direct evidence that one seeks out.*

Only a great journalist could compile this eulogy and this journalistic satire. Edward Behr has written it with a humour that is reminiscent of Evelyn Waugh. His book appeared in France, published by Robert Laffont, with on the cover, the B.B.C. Reporters question. In the United States, the title has been modified; the feminist leagues prohibit one from making fun of the word 'violation'.

Congo 1960

Outside the sun was scorching and even if you happened to be under the comparative shade of the aviation hangars, the humidity was intense. Crammed together in the hangars, thousands of Belgian civilians, women and children for the most part, leaving Africa forever so as to set off and begin a new existence in Belgium awaited with resignation till it was their turn to be evacuated by the airlift from the former Belgian Congo, recently became independent, (1960). Some had been hunted from small remote towns in the North West of the country by the atrocities of Soldiers and rebel Congolese unrestrained in the wild. Others had succumbed to a quite understandable psychosis of terror and were fleeing for the most part from imaginary atrocities, abandoning all behind them with the exception of their pathetic little bundles of clothes.

Cutting through the crowd, a television journalist, typically British, followed in his wake by his camerman and various technicians like a platoon Commander in enemy territory. From time to time he halted to cry out in a stentorian voice, which retained none the less a very distinct B.B.C. tone:

'Is there anyone here who has been violated and who speaks English?'

That was my first sight of the Congo, that vast country which covers the heart of Africa and which was to be re-named **Zaire** by President Mobuto.

On my first visit to the Congo, it seemed to me that the cynical attitude of the B.B.C. reporter summed up completely the tragic nature, and at the same time the unbelievable surrealism of that country where many rival ethnic groups, some of whom live in regions as vast as France, found themselves suddenly and inexorably catapulted among the bureaucrats of the United Nations who were doing their utmost to put a semblance of order amid that chaos. The incredible mixture of tongues and races of the United Nations contingent - which consisted of Indian diplomats and Ghana, Nigerian, Tunisian, Moroccan, Irish and Gurkha troops - had made the Headquarters in Leopoldville a veritable Tower of Babel.

Irish Battalion Wore WWI Uniforms

I was accompanying an Irish battalion which was part of the United Nations forces in the Congo and which had arrived in uniforms dating from the First World War, wearing puttees, to go patrolling in a remote region of the Congo where was to be found what was then named the Prince Albert Park, one of the best stocked animal reserves in Africa. The Irish troops did not show the slightest surprise. Elephants, leopards, lions and hippopotami roaming at large - it was truly the concept of Africa for which their school-books had prepared them, and they felt re-assured to see that this image corresponded exactly with reality. I was tempted to explain to them about the real Africa - this was not it all - but it would have been cruel to disenchant them. They would have plenty of time to find that out themselves.

Their chaplain spent most of his time in blessing planes which were about to take off.

'Here everyone is a volunteer, except me', explained the Officer who was in command of them.

I asked him how did he think the Irish and Congolese Soldiers were going to get on together on the mixed patrols that were expected in the town of Buckavu.

'Fine!' he replied in his rich Irish accent. "Haven't we both been colonised?'.

Alas, the honeymoon did not last long. An Irish Soldier was killed by black Balubas, an event which recalls the famous story - probably unauthentic - which nevertheless went the rounds of the correspondents gathered together in the Congo: On hearing that her son had been hanged by the Balubas, his aged mother declared:-

'They should not have done such a thing! There was no reason whatsoever for him to be hung by the Balubas!'

Irish Doctors

I set out for the deepest part of the bush with two young Irish doctors recently disembarked from Dublin who were on their first mission for the **World Health Organisation** which was courageously doing its utmost to counteract the massive exodus of Belgian doctors and nurses.

We went deep into the jungle in a jeep as far as a model hospital in the bush from which the entire staff had moved off without giving any notice, a few days previously, organising a veritable cortege of vehicles to head for Uganda, at that time a British colony. The Belgians had left the Congo without bothering to know if the Congolese were ready for independence: for Congolese with a University training were still quite rare and there was not a single doctor. In their hospitals however, the Belgians had adopted the practice of training their Congolese Aides, who were often almost illiterate, to specialise in certain medical duties which they executed with the efficacy of a robot. For example, the head native orderly of our hospital had learned how to reduce fractures and to plaster the wounded. It was he who assumed control of the hospital while awaiting the arrival of the Irish. On entering the first ward, we were struck by the calm that reigned there. The two doctors quickly discovered the cause: all the serious cases had been carefully plastered from neck to toe.

One of the most seriously wounded patients was a Pygmy who had been left on his own in a bunk. He, also had been covered with plaster and the doctors thought that this had probably saved his life. A terrible purulent wound had ripped him open from his genitals to his naval. Initially the two Irishmen were unable to reach an explanation as to what could have been the cause of that wound. Finally, by the efforts of a team of four interpreters they succeeded in communicating with him going from a Pygmy dialect to Swahili, from Swahili to French and from French into English. I myself assumed the last relay. While out hunting the poor misfortunate had been attacked by a wild bear. My confidence in the competence of the two new arrivals was a trifle shaken when one of them murmured:- 'Well, well and we thought that it was a complicated case of hernia!'

This extract from a review of Edward Behr's book was translated by Comdt. J. F. Turner from *L'Express*, No. 1422, 14.10.1978.

MODERN DEVELOPMENTS - LASAR RANGEFINDERS

An interesting range of laser rangefinders have recently been put on the market by CILAS, a french subsidiary of GEC. The rangefinders, alone or associated with optical sights and target designators, are intended for land, air and naval forces. Of special interest are the artillery laser rangefinder-sight, the laser rangefinders for mounting on tanks and the binoculars type laser rangefinder.

The artillery rangefinder sight TM 12 has been designed to maximise capabilities as regards the observation and location of a target. It shows the elevation and directional angles by optical aiming, and the distance by laser rangefinding. With an adapter it can be used for surveying. Its range is from 300m (from 100m with surveying adapter) to 19,995m with an accuracy of within five meters.

The series of tank laser rangefinders are designed for installation in a wide range of tanks. Their standard range is from 400m to 9,995m and may be mounted alone (TCV 29 and 30) or on the optical sight (APX M 550/TCV 80). The APX M 504 rangefinder sight is part of the automatic fire control system for gun-equipped armoured vehicles (COTAC). All the gun layer has to do is to aim on the target and trigger the rangefinder. All calculations are computed automatically.

The TPY 89 is a hand held laser rangefinder which looks like and has roughly the same size as field binoculars. It is designed for observation and quick and accurage distance measurement of a target. The operator centers the cross hairs on the target and triggers the laser by means of a push-button; the distance in meters is instantaneously displayed in the eyepiece. The range of the TPY 89 is from 150m to 9,990m.

Comdt. D. Lee

M-1973/4

The Soviets fielded the M-1973 and M-1974 self-propelled artillery because of evolving battlefield conditions and their own battle plans, and not because the Western nations relied so heavily on self-propelled weapons. Much of the push for self-propelled artillery came from the armor branch, which recognized the value of having an organic highly mobile artillery capability to protect both tanks and motorized infantry. That the new self-propelled guns are subordinate to artillery commanders reaffirms the role of the artillery branch on a par with armor and infantry.

(Armor - U.S.A.)

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Southern Command

The President of Bulgaria, Mr. Todor Zhivkov, inspecting a Guard of Honour drawn from 12 Inf. Bn., under Capt. D. Murphy, during a visit to Shannon Airport.

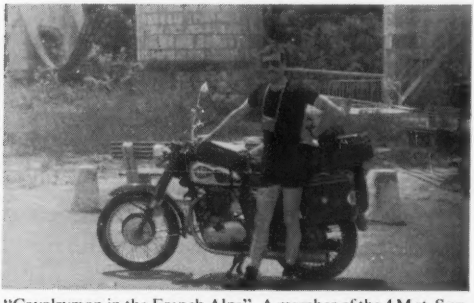
Lt. Col. T. Russell, E.O., with the Command Orienteering team winners 1 F.A. Regt. L. to R.: B.S. W. Barry, Sgt. J. Collins, CQMS P. Brennan, Sgt. W. Murphy, Sgt. P. O'Driscoll. On right, C. S. J. Spillane, 4 Inf. Bn., who came 1st in the Command Orienteering Championship.

(Photos: G. Moore)

Western Command

Winners of the 1st Bn. Inter-Coy Basketball Competition held in Dun Ui Mhaoiliosa, Galway. **Front,** L. to R.: Cpl. Doyle, Pte. Conneely, Pte. Keogh, Sgt. M. Lafferty. **Back:** Lt. T. Aherne, Cpl. M. Winters and Comdt. D. Taylor.
(Photo: Capt. S. O'Fiachain)

Sgt. M. Lafferty (right) scoring a basket for A Coy in the Inter Coy Basketball Competition in Dun Ui Mhaoiliosa, Galway.
(Photo: Capt. S. O Fiachain)



"Cavalryman in the French Alps". A member of the 4 Mot. Sqn. on a 3,300 mile motor cycle tour of Europe.
(Photo: Capt. B. Rohan)

"Specialist Drivers Required". 4 Mot. Sqn. recruiting advt. which appeared in the Longford newspapers recently shows Sgt. Horgan, Cpl. Masterson, Tpr. Jameson, Tpr. Tarmey, Tpr. Rhatigan (Photo: Capt. B. Rohan)

Sgt. Jimmy Quinn, 17 Inf. Bn., with an old British service rifle which he found in the barrack field.
(Photo: Capt. B. Rohan)

An AML 90 taken in the wing mirror of another armoured car. This photo won the "West Awake" photographic competition, February 1979. (Photo: Capt. B. Rohan)
(Photo shows Tpr. Jameson (Dvr), Tpr. Percival (Gnr.))

Eastern Command

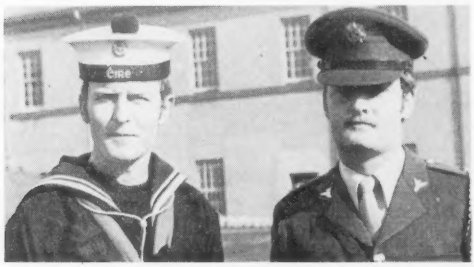
A recent picture of the personnel of the Army Equitation School. **Back Row, L/R:** Pte. P. Donnelly, Sgt. P. Waters, Pte. D. Owens, Pte. K. Collins, Pte. F. Taffe, Pte. M. Reidy, Cpl. F. Dawson, Pte. J. McMahon, Pte. D. Murtagh, Pte. P. Brady, Pte. R. Grehan, Cpl. M. Moore, Pte. T. Goulding, Pte. C. Beatty, Pte. D. Monks, Cpl. C. Smyth, Cpl. M. O'Rourke. **Centre Row L/R:** C/S J. Dwyer, Pte. M. Dillon, Pte. M. Leahy, Cpl. J. Doyle, Cpl. M. O'Sullivan, Pte. E. Bracken, Pte. J. Nolan, Pte. H. Cowap, Pte. K. Cooper, Pte. J. Roden, Pte. T. Ryan, Pte. P. Kehoe, Pte. B. Kelly, Pte. D. Gahan, Pte. M. Doyle, Cpl. J. Ivers, Cpl. A. O'Hara. **Front Row L/R:** Sgt. J. Ward, S/M S. Hickey, Capt. C. J. Power, Lt. D. C. Foster, Lt. P. F. Kavanagh, Capt. M. O. Kiely, Lt.-Col. E. V. Campion, Col. W. A. Ringrose, Comdt. R. M. MacMahon, Lt. B. J. McSweeney, Capt. M. G. Mullins, Lt. J. P. Roche, BQMS R. McLaughlin, Sgt. J. Doyle, Sgt. S. Kehoe.

(Air Corps photo)

Mr. J. Berwick, Manager, Bank of Ireland, Monaghan, presenting the Bank of Ireland Cup for Border Rugby to Comdt. B. McKevitt, OC, Monaghan Bks. Capt. D. Bracken who initiated and organised the competition on left. Units currently involved in border duties took part in the competition, in the final of which the 28 Bn. defeated 4th Motor Sqn.

Naval Service

After their Passing Out Parade held recently in Naval Base, 7th Potential NCOs pose from left — Back Row: L/Stew. M. Byrne; L/Wr. G. Cunningham; L/Wr. R. Holden; L/Sea. M. Flynn; L/Era. K. Kennedy; L/Era. T. Leahy; L/Wr. A. O'Hagan; L/Tel. P. Hodgers and L/Sea. F. Buckley. Centre Row: L/Sea P. Shaw; L/Sea M. Doran; L/Sea R. Meenahgan; L/Ea T. Dykes; L/Ea K. Kennedy; L/Mech. D. O'Neill; L/Era P. Sullivan and L/Mech. Courtney. Front Row: Cpl. D. Corcoran; L/Sea P. Ryan; L/Era T. Byrne; L/Era M. McIntyre; L/Ea F. Jones; L/Stew. D. Dawson; L/CK G. O'Connell; L/Mech. D. McGrath; L/Ship F. Bertles; L/SBA T. McGee; L/Stew Kavanagh; Sgt. G. O'Callaghan, and P.O. W. Hayes. Seated: Rev. Fr M. O'Brien, C.F., Chaplain; Cdr. L. Brett, A/C.O.; L/Sea J. Nolan, (Best P.O.T. N.C.O.); Lt. Cdr. Paddy Kavanagh, School Comdt.; and Lt. V. Harris, Officer i/c Course.



L/Radio Radar Mechanic Philip Brown who passed out at the Naval Base recently with his brother Lt. David Brown, McGee Bks., Kildare.

(Naval Service photo)

Recipients of Life Saving Certificates. Left: A/S M. Mahon and A/W J. Hefferman with Cdr. L. Brett, C.O., Naval Base.

(Naval Service photo)

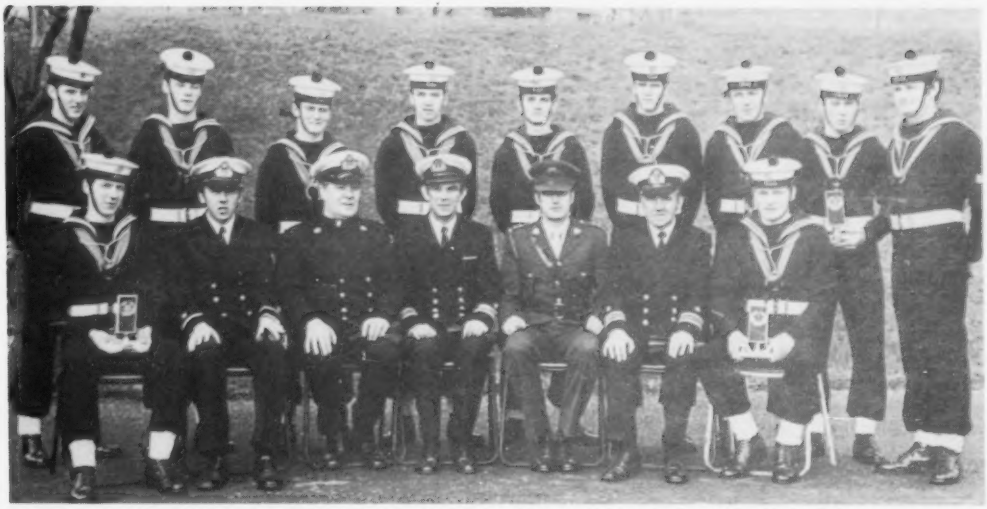
Lt. Cdr. M. Clifford, N.S., receiving a presentation from O/SBA T. Flynn, Supplies Devision, Naval Base, on the occasion of his retirement from the service.

(Naval Service photo)

L/Sick Berth Attendant T. McGee with his children at a recent Potential NCOs Passing Out Parade at the Naval Base.

(Naval Service photo)

Naval Service



Photographed at the "Passing Out" of Class "Lima" at the Naval Base are: Ensign Gerry O'Flynn; Fr. O'Brien, Naval Chaplain; Lt. Cdr. C. O'Donnell; Lt. R. Ryan and Lt. Cdr. L. Smyth with Recruits — Malley, Mullen, Ledwell, Cleland, Dowling, Farrell, Byrne, McGurk, Rogers, Massey and Class Instructor L/S N. Hickey.

(N.S. photo)

CISM

The Army Team and Officials which took part in CISM. **Front, L. to R.:** Pte. M. Walsh, Gnr. B. Keaney, Pte. M. Lawton, Cpl. J. McGlynn, Ptes. D. Walsh and G. Morrissey. **Back:** BQMS J. Nolan, Sgt. Maj. P. Norris, Gnr. B. Downey, S/M J. Rabbitte, Pte. D. O'Connor, Gnr. P. Murphy, Pte. R. Crowley, Cpl. H. McClelland, Pte. P. Keane, Comdt. N. G. Hegarty, OCA ASPC.

(Air Corps photo)

Air Corps

Aerospatiale Gazelle piloted by Comdt. J. P. Kelly undergoing trials at Casement Aerodrome.
(Air Corps photo)

An Alouette III Helicopter piloted by Lt. P. Donnelly, Cpl. N. Donnelly on winch and Cpl. J. Manning on flagpole.
(Air Corps photo)

A SIAI Marchetti Warrior
(Air Corps photo)

Rev. Fr. Clarence, C.P. before he became airborne at Baldonnel during the annual mission. (Air Corps Photo)

Unit Chaplains

Chaplains will benefit further by becoming identified as a valuable part of the unit. They will have concrete and tangible responsibilities and a definite mandate to take positive steps to identify and solve personal problems. By so doing they will help to maintain the morale and discipline of the unit.

(Marine Corps Gazette - U.S.A.)

Jog On:

The American Medical Association has stated that obesity is in epidemic proportions in the United States today. Obesity is one of the major causes of the diseases, which hospitalize these millions. With such appalling statistics, can a leader of Marines look the other way or mark an overweight Marine "above average" in personal appearance?

(Marine Corps Gazette - U.S.A.)

DFAA FIXTURES

Orienteering — 8/9 May, Kilworth Area.
Medical Service Cup — 1st Round — 2/5/79
(a) E. Comd v. S. Comd. : E. Comd.
(b) A Corps v. N.S.
Semi-Finals — 9/5/79
Winner (a) v. W. Comd.
Winner (b) v. C. Comd.
Chaplain's Cup — 1st Round — 16/5/79
(a) A. Corps v. C. Comd. — Baldonnell
(b) W. Comd. v. N.S.
Semi-Finals — 23/5/79
Winner (a) v. S. Comd.
Winner (b) v. E. Comd.

CERT

CERT competitions. Presentation of prizes in the Defence Forces Section of the National Chefs competition at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin. Top: L. to R.: Sgt. J. Hanlon, Cootehill — Bronze Medal; Cpl. J. Bowes, Clonmel — Certificate of Merit; Sgt. M. Daly, Dundalk — Bronze Medal; Sgt. W. McHugh, ASOC, Comdt. P. Mulcahy, OC Army School of Catering; Pte. P. Rudden, 6 Inf. Bn., — 1st prize and Gold Medal; Mr. M. Marley, CERT; BQMS G. Devlin, Army School of Catering; Sgt. D. Gerraghty, Curragh Command — Silver Medal.

On left: Pte. Patrick Rudden, 6 Inf. Bn., Athlone, who won first prize, received the Bord na Mona prize from Mr. P. Mooney. The Trophy represents two Briquettes and eight Chef's Hats around the Army Crest.

On Right: Sgt. D. Gerraghty, Curragh Command, who won second prize with his wife and Capt. P. McKenna, Catering Officer, Curragh Command.

(Air Corps photos)

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THE SMITH WESSON AUTOMATICS

Major Richard J. Keogh, USAR

Smith Wesson of Springfield, Massachusetts, USA, are world famous for their line of revolvers. In 1954 they introduced the model 39 automatic in 9mm parabellum calibre. This pistol had several novel features; an aluminium alloy frame for light weight, a double-action trigger mechanism for a fast first shot, and an adjustable rear sight. The model 39 was a sales success and many thousands have been sold in the USA. It has had some acceptance as a police pistol, and it was used by some US navy and US air force units in the Vietnam war.

In 1927 Smith Wesson introduced their model 59. This is basically a model 39 with an enlarged magazine. It is also alloy-framed and double-action. The grip frame of the model 59 was widened to accommodate a 14-round magazine. As a result, the grip plates had to be made of plastic, to avoid having a grip too fat for the average hand. The earlier model 39 had, and still has, well-checkered walnut grips.

Mechanically, both the model 39 and 59 are derived from the colt-browning locking system of the model 1911 colt. The barrel is locked to the slide by ribs on the top of the barrel which engage recesses cut into the inside of the slide. As a shot is fired, the barrel and slide recoil together for a fraction of an inch. This allows time for the bullet to leave the barrel. Then a cam on the bottom of the barrel meets a lug on the frame. The barrel is cammed downward, out of engagement with the slide. The slide goes on back, ejects the fired case, comes forward picking up a loaded round from the magazine, and finally forces the barrel up and forward to a position where the ribs and slots again lock together.

The use of this time-proven action system, a light frame, and a double-action trigger have made the model 39 and 59 very popular. The price of the model 39 was about 80.00 (F40) up till the late sixties. This has increased to the present 150. (F75) The model 59 sells, in the USA, for about 200.00 (F100). Second-hand specimens are widely available at lower cost.

Due to their relatively light weight, shape, and rounded hammers, both the model 39 and 59 are more easily concealed than the average military style automatic in this calibre. Persons encountering these pistols for the first time should note that engaging the safety, located on the left rear of the slide, will cause the hammer to fall. There is, however, a solid steel block between the firing pin and the hammer when this occurs. Note also that these are double-action pistols, so they can be fired without cocking the hammer.

Summary:

Calibre:	9mm parabellum
Weight:	Model 39, 26.5 oz; model 59, 27.5 oz.
Length:	7.5 inches
Height:	5.5 inches
Capacity:	8-round magazine in model 39; 14 rounds in model 59

Sights:
fixed front sight; rear sight adjustable for windage only.

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THE LORE AND LANGUAGE OF SOLDIERS

Col. L. Verhoeff (Retd.)
Royal Netherlands Army

IT is not difficult for anybody interested in traditions, customs, proverbs, stories etc. to get acquainted with the rich folklore of the Irish people. A wealth of information on Irish folklore is available in all sorts of books and articles, covering such widely varying subjects as for instance fairy forts and haunted houses, peat cutting and poteen making, holy wells and wake amusements. The vast majority of these sources concern the whole of Ireland or one of its provinces, counties or smaller areas. Some other books and articles have as a subject the folklore of a specific social group (school children, itinerant people, fishermen and others) but no book, to my knowledge, has ever been written on the folklore of the Irish armed forces.

Many people react somewhat incredulously on hearing the term *folklore of the armed forces* or even decline to believe that any such thing exists. Folklore, in their opinion, is another word for shady old stories about Will o' the Wisp and Wee Willie Winkie and related phenomena. However, this is not what folklorists define as their branch of science. Let me quote, for instance, what the well-known Irish folklorist Sean O Suilleabhain understands by folklore. "Folklore is now accepted as being concerned with the lore of man and all his activities. Accounts of the houses the people lived in, the dress they wore, the food they ate, their social dealings with one another, their education and religious life, their festivals and amusements, births, marriages and deaths, together with beliefs about the afterworld, as well as innumerable other facets of human life, have been brought within the sphere of folklore"[1]. From this description it becomes perfectly clear, that there must be such a thing as the folklore of the armed forces. In other European languages equivalent terms exist: *folklore militaire* in French, *soldatische Volkskunde* in German, *militaire folklore* in Dutch.

The study of this branch of folklore actually started in the closing decades of the nineteenth century. In a French periodical on popular traditions of 1887 one may find the first article on soldiers' folklore ever published; it gives information on the nicknames and superstitions in French and Belgian military life[2]. An early collection of German soldiers' words and expressions can be found in a military dictionary, published in 1892[3]. The first standard work, exclusively concerned with soldiers' folklore was written by a German philologist, Paul Horn, and published in 1899[4]; this book gives the history of the German soldiers' slang and related aspects of soldiers' life, starting with the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) and ending with the Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871), grouping the material in ten chapters, that have long been guidelines for other authors on this subject.

I do not know of any book on soldiers' slang or other aspects of soldiers' lore in the English language published before World War I. We may however learn some soldiers' slang words of the past from general slang dictionaries, the two most famous ones of the last century being the Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue by F. Grose[5] and The Slang Dictionary by J. C. Hotten[6]. Grose lists about seventy soldiers' words and Hotten about fifty; both also have a fair number of sailors' words. From the rather elaborate descriptions and explanations we catch glimpses of soldiers' life in the past: their games and pastimes, their official and unofficial punishments, their married life and old age, the nicknames that they gave each other and the regiments they served in etc. These glimpses however are rather incidental; many more words must have existed for all sorts of aspects of soldiers' life. Alas, they went unrecorded!

The first more or less comprehensive works on the lore and language of the English speaking soldier were published after World War I by E. Fraser and J. Gibbons[7] and by J. Brophy and E. Partridge[8]. The first mentioned book is written from a more or less official point of view: it includes for instance a list of battle-honours and gives quite a lot of information on weapons, colours, army organisation etc. It contains about 3,000 words and expressions, British and American. The dictionary of Brophy and Partridge, although not specifically meant to be complementary, gives much additional information and is rather bitter in tone. It lists about 1,700 British songs and expressions, 15 songs related to bugle calls, about 50 songs proper and additional information on catch phrases, chants and shouts of the British soldier.

From these books we can get an idea of what the soldiers' life in the trenches was like, especially from the book of Brophy and Partridge, which was meant to be an eye-opener and to do away with whatever sentimental or romantic ideas about the war might still have existed. Of course these dictionaries are not the only sources; other books can shed light. Restricting myself to a few examples of books about the First World War we have in the first place books of a literary character: novels about soldiers' life like E. Blunden's Undertones of War[9], personal reminiscences like the diary of General Jack[10] and collections of poetry, like the

poems of R. Graves[11]. Also we can consult books containing special collections of military curiosities, for example the books on emblems by V. Wheeler-Holohan[12], on the legends and rumours by A. Whitehouse[13], a recently published book by B. Jones and B. Howell about the tangible relics of the war: picture postcards, souvenirs, charms to bring luck, pin-ups etc.[14] and many, many more. Finally there are in the various war museums and private collections photos, paintings and drawings of the events of World War I as well as objects of all kinds, that can be of help in the reconstruction of the soldiers' life in this war.

All these sources concern the British soldier. However one should remember, that up to and including the First World War the British armed forces included the Irish armed forces; they consisted for a very considerable part of Irish units and of Irish soldiers serving in non-Irish units. One has only to browse through the list of World War I battle-honours to find Irish regiments, bearing names such as *South Irish Horse, The Royal Munster Fusiliers* and *18th London Regiment (London Irish Rifles).* The above named sources therefore are sources of Irish soldiers' folklore as well. The books and articles however do not give information on specific ethnic or linguistic minorities in the British armed forces. Therefore we get only general information on the Irish soldiers and only in so far as they spoke English, with one or two very incidental exceptions, for instance in a nickname like *Faugh-a-Ballagh Boys* for the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

I have never come across a book on the lore and language of the Irish soldier in the period that started with the Easter Rising of 1916. It is however self-evident that many of the above mentioned aspects will also have existed in the Volunteer Forces fighting the British, in the Army of the Irish Free State as it gradually took shape after the independence was won in 1922 and in the opposing forces during the Civil War. Of course, reading about these events one finds interesting bits of folklore every now and then. To give just one example: a book about the happenings in 1916 by W. Irving[15] quotes a few songs and slogans of the opposing Irish and British forces. As far as I know these aspects of Soldiers' folklore have never been collected.

If ever such a collection should be started it might be of help to have a guideline on the subjects to be treated. This has already been researched in the Royal Netherlands Army, starting with a questionnaire, published in a well known Dutch military periodical. The material thus gathered was incorporated into a comprehensive treatise on Dutch soldiers' folklore, published in a few hundred copies by the Historical Section of the Netherlands Army General Staff[16] and to be released in September of this year as a book by the Netherlands Government Publishing Office. As the Dutch language is not generally accessible an excerpt of the subjects treated has been translated into English on the occasion of an exhibition on soldiers' folklore, arranged during a meeting of British and Dutch military historians in 1976. This excerpt follows here to give a idea of the extent of the subject covered.

History of the Study of Soldiers' Folklore.
Conscription Folklore
Old Soldiers' Folklore
Unofficial Aspects in Clothing and Heraldry
Graffiti.
Mascots and Pets.
What Soldiers Make and Preserve.
Punishments and Pranks
Contests
Games and Pastimes.
Old Soldiers' Tricks.
Battle Lore.
Soldiers' Prayers

As for the contemporary Irish soldier: until now I have succeeded in finding only one book on his folklore, this being a book on Irish Soldiers' jokes by P. O'Farrell[17]. It gives a collection of stories, the majority of which can be classified under 6.5.1 of the synopsis. Many of these jokes are international, having equivalent versions in Dutch, French and German; only a few have a specific Irish flavour. Furthermore the book contains some nicknames (5.2.2.), stories about a legendary character called Captain John (6.1.), a few comical definitions (6.4.2.), two songs (7.2) and some limericks (7.4).

The picture, however, is far from complete. Maybe the synopsis given above will act as an incentive to start collecting and registering the folklore of the Irish soldier of the past and the present day. Anybody knowing the Irish military history will concede the fact, that the Irish soldier is worth it.

1 Sean O Suilleabhain: A Handbook of Irish Folklore (Dublin, 1942), F. XI.
2 M. Bayon et al.: Sobriquets et superstitions militaires. In: Revue des traditions populaires, 2me annee (1887), p. 49 et seq.
3 Gotthold Krebs: Militarische Redensarten und Kunst-Ausdrucke (Wien, 1892), p. 159-183).
4 Paul Horn: Die deutsche Soldatensprache (Giessen, 1899).
5 Captain Frances Grose: A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue (London, 1785). The third edition, under the title Lexicon Balatronicum (London, 1811) was re-issued by Robert Crome (Northfield, Illinois, 1971).
6 Anonymous (John Camden Hotten): The Slang Dictionary (London, 1859). The fifth edition (London, 1875) was the final version; it has been reprinted many times.
7 Edward Fraser and John Gibbons: Soldier and Sailor Words and Phrases (London, 1925).
8 John Brophy and Eric Partridge: Songs and Slang of the British Soldier 1914-1918 (London, 1930). The third edition (London, 1931) contains numerous addenda and is about twice as big as the original edition. This third edition was entirely re-written by John Brophy and re-issued under the title The Long Trail (London, 1965).
9 Edmund C. Blunden: Undertones of War (London, 1930).
10 J. L. Jack, edited by J. Terraine: General Jack's Diary 1914-1918 (London, 1964).
11 Robert Graves: Collected Poems (London, 1938).
12 V. Wheeler-Holohan: Divisional and other Signs (London, 1920).
13 Arch Whitehouse: Epics and Legends of the First World War (London, 1964).
14 Barbara Jones & Bill Howell: Popular Arts of the First World War (London, 1972).
15 Wilmot Irwin: Betrayal in Ireland (Belfast, n.d.).
16 L. Verhoeff: Soldatenfolklore ('s-Gravenhage, 1977).
17 Padraic O'Farrell: The Book of Irish Soldiers' Jokes (Cork/Dublin, 1976).

WHAT THE PAPERS NOTICE

DEFENCE

The *Cork Examiner* gave more space than most to the motions on Defence which came before the Fianna Fail Ard Fheis and any soldier with a good eye for ground is always interested in the grass roots.

Ms. Pauline Daly urged the Minister "to initiate a deeper and more realistic commitment by the Department in their approach to Civil Defence. She also called for more attractive uniforms to be provided — especially for the girls who were joining up in increasing numbers".

Mr. Daibhid O Harchain was more interested in warlike stores and said "there were serious deficiencies in the organisation and equipment of the Defence Forces". Regarding equipment he complained "that Artillery and Transport were inadequate while there was a complete lack in the areas of anti-tank and anti-aircraft facilities. According to the financial provision for ammunition, £5 million, that amount of ammunition would only last half a day of sustained firing". Half a day, that means the Gunners will only have to come in on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Mr. Michael O'Brien recommended "that the Minister should look at the pay structure, bearing in mind the long and boring duties that soldiers had to undertake".

Returning to the ladies, as is our wont, we note that Mr. Molloy said "arrangements were at an advanced stage for the establishment of a Women's Service Corps. The uniform had been designed and planning for suitable accommodation for the women was well in hand.".

We searched our papers assiduously for a Defence Motion at the Fine Gael Ard Fheis. If there was one it was not reported.

CROSS COUNTRY

Considering the amount of hard work that went into the organising and running of the CISM Cross Country Championships at Mallow the Southern Command may have been a little disappointed with the newspaper coverage. However they were competing with blizzards at the Curragh, frost bitten majorettes in O'Connel St. and Eric Clapton in Collins Bks. The *Cork Examiner* come out on top, of course, both in photographs and reporting. Tom O'Riordan of the *Independent* had some expert comment even if his prediction that "Ireland would be doing very well to get among the medals if unlikely to match the silver collection won in Cork back in 1969 when John Buckley led them home" was down the field. The home team as we now know won a magnificent second place beating the Tunisians who fielded their World Championship Squad. What a pity the result was not even mentioned by R.T.E. when they showed a picture of the dignitaries in the stand and the winner breasting the tape.

The shorter 5,000m race was won by a Belgian with the appropriately military name of Schots.

Talking of trips cross country, Donal Byrne of the *Irish Press* went to the Eric Clapton Concert for the troops at Collins Bks. He wrote "Clapton, rock guitarist extraordinary and a music legend in his own time, came to repay those soldiers who guide him through **McKee Barracks**, avoiding the crowds each time he plays at Dublin's National Stadium." Guided by the Orienteering Team, no doubt. However, we must admire Donal Byrne's observation "The bright lights illuminating the band highlighted the smoke filling to the ceiling up past the Proclamation of the Republic and portraits of the 1916 leaders adorning the walls of the dining hall". They probably heard the noise up in Arbour Hill.

COMMUNICATIONS

Vince Moran writing in the *Limerick Leader* was concerned that the postal dispute had cut off "42 Limerick soldiers" from their families.

"Some families have not heard from their sons for several weeks and have been endeavouring to get something done about it through the local barracks."

One anxious parent, Mr. Roy O'Halloran, said "I though that in a case like this the Army would have arranged something special to ensure that mail between families and their sons could flow uninterrupted".

Making special arrangements during a protracted strike is a very difficult matter as the World Cross Country organisers discovered, even in Limerick.

However, the *Irish Press* in an article by Michael Bance may offer a solution.

"A special link for Curragh Command soldiers peace-keeping in the war-torn wastes of the Lebanon has been forged by an officer, his young daughter and her friend."

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"The boys on the battlefronts eagerly await the voices of two pretty Newbridge, Co. Kildare girls, on a programme taped and flown to the Middle East each month."

An accompanying picture showed "Comdt. Gerry Mulrooney, Mairead Ryan, Capt. David Ashe and Caroline Mulrooney making tapes for the troops in the Lebanon".

According to the article "Families, friends, parents, wives and sweethearts of the soldiers overseas are interviewed for the tapes. Command Press Officer, Capt. David Ashe, chips in with a news bulletin covering everything from the latest promotions to sports results, weddings and detailed accounts of the sauciest stag parties." Stag Parties! In Beagle country?

There's an idea for Limerick. Open a branch of ARM (Alternative Radio Mulrooney).

PADDY'S DAY

March 17th was more like a White Christmas than a breath of Spring for most people so we read with envy Charles Devereaux's account of "Shamrock and Medals in Lebanon", in the .....

"It's Southern Lebanon and the medals being issued to some 200 soldiers on parade in the HOT SUN are UN service decorations, issued to the troops of the Irish 44th Infantry Battalion serving with UNIFIL."

Charles seems to have missed the distinguished visitors from Ireland as he writes "The Governor of South Lebanon, the Mayors of the local towns and villages, the officers of the other six UNIFIL battalions and a host of miscellaneous guests and hangers-on gathered after the parade for a sumptuous lunch laid on by the Battalion."

The daughter of the Mukhtar of Tibnine paid tribute to the Irish Units when she said "the mercy of your humane mission has restored peace in mind and on land after it had vanished completely".

According to Charles Devereaux "The postal strike is badly affecting some of the men's morale and a bomb disposal officer jokes "We're not half so afraid of the bombs as of the postal strike".

Back home The Saturday Column in the *Irish Times*, previewing the St. Patrick's Day Parades, had the following:

'Today's marches in Dublin and all over the country are not in the main honouring industrial achievements but are largely entertainment. My own favourites have always been the Bishop Kearney High Schoolgirls from New York. These high stepping girls in their green and white jaunty outfits seem just exactly right for this fectival occasion. Personally I could do without that Army display of tanks and lorries. Military might is not our strong point.'

Observation is hardly their strong point either. It must be many years since Army lorries formed part of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin. And even our most elderly officers can NOT recall the last time our tanks rolled up, or down, O'Connel St.

Mr. Molloy, the Minister for Defence had a different view of Army participation. Reviewing the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Galway he said, (according to the *Irish Times*), he was particularly proud to see our troops involved in the parade.

"Our men have always performed their tasks effectively and earned a high reputation as a peace-keeping force. In this year in which we honour the anniversary of the birth of the Republic's most honourable soldier, let us also salute the men of today's Irish Army — worthy successors of Commandant Padraig Pearse.'

TALES OF THREE CITIES

The *Irish Times* in their Changing Towns series sent Breandán O hEithir back to Galway and Seamus Conaty up to Cavan to see how times had changed.

Breandán's memory of Galway:

"I can think of no other town in Ireland in the 1950's where a soldier, walking up one side of the main street, could shout across to a gaggle of house-maids on their nightly promenade: "An bhfuil seans ar bith ort, a Nóirín?" (Any chance of you, Noreen?) to be told, equally loudly, "Níl, tá an nádúr ag plé liom!" (No, nature is taking its course with me!), without giving offence to anyone."

Seamus Conaty's view of Cavan today:

"The Northern problems have brought additional wage packets to the town with the Gardaí being strongly reinforced, and an Army presence of approximately 250 housed in fairly primitive conditions in the old barracks. Plans to build alternative accommodation are causing some controversy."

Limerick and its soldiery came in for the most unfavourable mention in a Report issued by ADAPT, a self-help organisation for battered wives. According to the *Irish Press*:

"The Report, which contains observations made on 100 case histories, points out that a significant number of clients had husbands in the Army, or were ex-Army, and the average number of children per family was four."

Let us hope the majority were ex-Army.

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SOME MOTHERS

Several months ago A MOTHER wrote to the *Evening Herald* complaining about the way her son had been treated by the Army. It was difficult to tell from her letter whether he had been enlisted or made application to enlist —

"My son joined the army last year and he was really looking forward to it. He got a letter from them about 2 months after he joined to say his application was refused and no reason given. I made some enquiries through friends and found out that it was because he was in trouble once with the police when he was 14.

Everybody makes mistakes and I can't see why one mistake he made so long ago should stop him from making something of his life. He was never in trouble before and has never been since. There are lads living in my area who were in trouble a number of times and they are in the army. I think it's very unfair. I would like to know what your readers think.

By the way, my son was not the only one this happened to. Another lad whose father spent years in the army was refused too. Although like my son they did not tell him the reason. Both boys are unemployed and they will be 18 years this year.

A MOTHER"

Jim Brady that master Correspondent from Dublin 16 replied to the lady, despite the postal strike, and offered his consolation and advice.

'When I joined the Navy I remember great blokes being discharged just like your son but they knew that was the system, and that they were only in on six weeks' trial. Thank god, times have changed, with excellent pay and conditions, and the most modern equipment that money can buy in all branches of the Forces.

The calibre of the new recruits has also greatly improved, which obviously included "A Mother's son, but surely he must have known about the investigation period; if not, try approaching your local T.D. who could take the matter up with Robert Molloy, the Defence Minister.'

Trouble in Store?

TATTOO

In recent years one of the features of Army life has been the number of young soldiers displaying colourful tattoos of all sizes and shapes. Many of them were loving references to wives and sweethearts but some of them had a different message. We refrained from seeking explanations after one young man informed us that the initials I.H.A.S. on his fingers stood for "I hate all Sergeants".

The tattooed and those aspiring to same may be interested in the following piece by Niall Kiely in the *Irish Times.*

"Tatoos for teens to be Taboo"

"Tattooing an under-18 may cost offenders in Northern Ireland up to £400 in fines, if draft legislation proposed yesterday becomes law.

"The Proposal for a Draft Tattooing of Minors Order would bring the situation in the North into line with that in Britain. The only exception to the rule will be when a doctor allows a tattoo to show someone is a diabetic, say, or allergic to particular drugs.

"A spokesman for the Northern Ireland Office said yesterday that tattooing, if done properly, could often be a work of art, "but it many cases young people get it done without realling thinking of the consequences later on."

He added: "The only way of removing a tattoo is by plastic surgery, and this nearly always involves skin-grafting. In some cases treatment may be spread over many weeks. Waiting lists are long, and treatment is restricted to the most serious cases. We hope this proposed new law will be effective in reducing the number of unwanted tattoos." '

RSM John Moore, 2 F.A. Regt. McKee Bks., Dublin, who has been appointed BSM to 45 Bn., UNIFIL. 37 year old RSM Moore is from Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow, and is married with 4 children.

(Photo: P. Jones)

Pte. Tony De Loughrey received a presentation from his colleagues in the 12th Inf. Bn., Limerick, prior to his departure for the U.S.A. with the Irish Boxing Team. L. to R.: C/S J. Fitzgerald; C/S F. Lynch; Pte. T. De Loughrey; Comdt. S. Nicholson; C/S T. Franklin and Comdt. P. Daly.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Bk. Services Section
Army H.Q.,
Dublin.

The Editor,
An Cosantóir.

Dear Sir,

I wish to bring to your notice an error which occurs on page 14 of *An Cosantoir* January 1979, under heading "First Deaths Abroad". The reference to Lt. Gleeson's Patrol has being the first deaths of Irish soldiers abroad is not correct.

The first Irish soldier to die on overseas service was the Late Coy. Sgt. Felix Grant, of the 13th Battalion, Clonmel (disbanded 1959), who died on 3rd October 1960. He was the Coy Sgt. of "B" Coy 33 Bn. serving in the Congo at that time.

PAT CASEY (Captain).

Cathal Brua Barracks,
Dublin6.

The Editor,
An Cosantóir.

A Chara,

Reference recent humourous anecdote in the Journal to the effect that when two German spies in 1940 or 1941 in the Dingle peninsula asked when was the next train due, the two men working on or near the narrow guage line of the Tralee and Dingle Light Railway told them that the last time a train ran on that line was ten years before, thus making out that the Germans were caught out, herewith the vital dates of that line:

1891— opened: **1925** — taken over by the G.S.R.;
1939— closure of the Castlegregary branch line and end of passenger coaches on the remaining line;
1944— daily goods train laid up due to shortage of coal thus ending operations temporarily;
1945— Line taken over by C.I.E. and initiating of a monthly cattle train to service Dingle fair;
1953— final closure after a final passenger special.

Break-up of the historic line which could have been a major tourist attraction and national monument. As the man said recently "there is a small bit of the Philistine in all of us".

If the Germans disbelieved the two workers and waited they could have caught the next slow moving daily goods train, thus scotching another Kerry or Irish joke. It was Kerry astuteness having seen through the Germans disguise.

P.D. O'DONNELL (Comdt.)

SPOOKS

"At a recent "International Security Conference" sponsored by the industries house organ, "Security World", there were more than a hundred exhibitors representing manufacturers of surveillence and counterintrusion equipment, ranging from Psychological Stress Evaluators to ultrasonic, infra-red, ionisation and motion detectors. Amid surveillence cameras, "multiplex security polling systems" window shock alarms thirty six lecturers sang the praises of "TASERS" and "company undercover men".

(A "Taser" is a supposedly nonlethal weapon that looks and handles like a flashlight. Aiming the light beam at the enemy, one then presses an electric release button. Immediately, two barbed contacts, connected to hair-thin electrical current are shot at the enemy, incapacitating him with a pulsating electrical current. Uncontrollable spasms and unconsciousness usually follow within seconds, and the victim seldom recovers in less than a few minutes)".

Extract from SPOOKS - THE PRIVATE USE OF SECRET AGENTS. A Report by Jim Hougan. W. H. Allen £5.95.

Military Unions:

Proponents and opponents of military unions have advanced formidable arguments to gain support for their views. The main area of controversy centres round the effects of unions on the army's combat role. On the one hand, critics claim that military unionization is likely to have a negative impact on hierarchical norms and thus on national security. On the other hand it is argued that unions have not influenced combat matters and that unionization in the army improves communications, conditions of service and morale, thus increasing military efficiency.

(The Army Quarterly - U.K.)

Will The Israelis Withdraw?

The seven-day invasion of the Litani Strip brought another 1,000 square miles of "Occupied Territory" under Israeli control, and it remains to be seen if, and how soon, they will withdraw. The Israelis feel they have proved to the Palestinians that terrorism can be counter-productive. The question is whether UNIFIL will be capable of preventing Palestinian guerrillas infiltrating back into the Litani Strip to mount a guerrilla war against the occupying Israeli forces, which are reluctant to withdraw while this is a probability. The Israeli invasion and the tactics they have used have proved to be unpopular internationally, even in some US Jewish circles, so in this sense they must be regarded as being counter-productive, in that they have overshadowed the initial cause - the Fatah terrorist raid on Israel.

The inflexible policy of Premier Begin, of working for a Greater Israel, has lost much international support for Israel, and this is already causing many Israelis some anxiety. Some Israelis feel that a lasting peace is more important than establishing more Jewish settlements in what the UN recognises as Arab territory, and there have been demonstrations in Israel in favour of this. Most Israelis think that Begin's invasion of Lebanon was good for Israel, but many are apprehensive as to what repercussions it might attract.

(The Army Quarterly - U.K.)

Sergeant-Majors:

A sergeant-major is a leader, but not a commander. As such, there is much he can do to benefit the command, but nothing which he can direct, exclusive of on-the-spot correction of juniors, which is a prerogative of all officers and non-commissioned officers. Subordinate enlisted personnel, whether they are privates in ranks or junior sergeants-major, all have commanding officers. A sergeant major who tries to replace or even supplement those commanding officers through assertion of nonexistent authority works to the detriment of the command.

(Marine Corps Gazette - U.S.A.)

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BOOK REVIEWS

THE VICTORIAN ARMY AT HOME. The Recruitment and Terms and Conditions of the British Regular, 1859-1899. Alan Ramsay Skelley. Croom Helm, London. £9.95

The main title of this book is punchy and catchy enough. It whets the unwary reader's appetite for hilarious tales of the exploits of Kipling's Soldiers Three et al during their home training before setting sail for India. Not so. Bawdy barrack-room anecdotes must be sought elsewhere; the more staid and precise sub-title sets the scene. This is the by-product of a doctoral thesis, and has all the signs of it. Footnotes abound; there are two hundred and seventy-five in the first chapter, two hundred and sixty in another, two hundred and seventy-four in another. And they are all bunched together at the end of each chapter, not at the foot of each page of text. They slow the reader down like a vast cheveaux de frise. There are thirty-three tables of statistics in the text and nineteen tables in the appendices, some of them occupying several pages. The intimidating bibliography runs to twenty-three pages. Not a volume for whiling away the idle hour.

If it is not a resounding success as light reading it is a prime example of what it is designed to be, a detailed, well-documented sympathetic study of the life, terms and conditions of the British rank and file in home stations between the Crimea and the Boer War. The chapter titles indicate the author's approach to his subject: The Health of the Rank and File; Army Education; Discipline and Crime in the Army; Rates of Pay, Pensions and Prospects of Post-Service Employment; The Recruiting Problem; Patterns of Recruitment; Reform and its Limitations. Under these headings Dr. Skelley has closely examined almost every aspect of the life of the soldier of the period. Strangely, he completely ignores his training.

If the general tenor of the work is sober and far from sensational it is nonetheless full of items of real interest. In 1868 a new scheme to fine men for drunkenness was introduced. "The usual fine for a first offence within a six-month period was 2/6; 5 shillings for a second, and for habitual drunkenness (a fourth offence) the maximum penalty was 10 shillings." The "... within a six-month period" is rather good. Given the value of money at that time these were fairly stiff fines. That they were used is shown by a 1903 copy of Routine Orders of the Lancashire Fusiliers unearthed during the recent demolition of Ceannt Barracks in the Curragh. In it we read that, ". . . 8924 Pte. Fairhurst was this day fined 7 shillings for drunkenness." Poor Fairhurst's skite cost him dear.

Flogging was the normal punishment for even trivial military offences. Its abolition was bitterly opposed by conservative elements inside and outside the service. The Duke of Cambridge argued that flogging was necessary to maintain discipline, and another officer wrote that he, ". . . never knew an instance of any man suffering any subsequent ill effects from receiving fifty lashes", a point of view not shared by soldiers who had suffered the humiliating and brutalising experience of being tied up and whipped in front of their comrades. Flogging was finally abolished in 1881 and the author gives the parliamentary credit to Gladstone, Hartington and the Liberals, with no mention of Charles Stewart Parnell.

As might be expected, considering the size of the garrison in this country during the period, Ireland receives many mentions. The various barracks here were not the most modern and healthy, and Florence Nightingale, the leading expert of the day on barrack architecture and sanitation sounds like a distraught O.C. Eastern Command of to-day when she said in 1886, "Dublin barracks lie like a nightmare on me and always have." To redress the balance, nothing but good is said of the Royal Hibernian Military School. The Lefroy report on army schools in 1858 found the students, all from military families, to be ". . . generally intelligent, quick, cheerful and healthy".

This is not a very easy book to read, its layout and the statistical tables see to that. But it is both informative and full of interest. It is a rich quarry in which any future writer on the lot of the nineteenth century soldier in these islands would be well advised to dig.

P. D. H.

WILDLIFE IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND— Richard Perry. Croom Helm: £7.25.

This splendidly illustrated (black and white) book is published in conjunction with the World Wildlife Fund. And it is important that we all should realise that while the name of the Wildlife Fund may suggest the demise of the elephant, it is also concerned with the loss of humbler species here at home. 'More noticable to country folk than the decline of the partridge has been the widespread loss of the vociferous corncrake', writes Mr. Perry; the list, alas, includes many more much loved animals, birds, insects and, with the increasing destruction of the hedgerows, plants and trees. But progress is also noted, the efforts of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in encouraging endangered species to return to old haunts is noted, and here at home the planting of grouse banks in forests, and the creation of reserves, gives encouragement.

Every aspect of wildlife is interestingly dealt with, from the disappearance of the wolf to the increase of the garden birds; frogs and butterflies, voles and seals all find their place, with their present status discussed in a sensible and constructive way. Again a book which deserves a wide readership, hopefully not confined to established country lovers, but particularly amongst farmers, developers and local government officials.

F. W.

I WAS A STRANGER. General Sir John Hackett. Chatto and Windus London. £4.95.

General Sir John Hackett parachuted into ARNHEM in 1944 with the British 1st Airborne Division as Officer Commanding the 4th Parachute Brigade.

After a bloody battle, which is now history, only 100 men from his 1000 strong brigade survived the withdrawal. Brigadier Hackett was not among those who came out.

On the morning of 24 September 1944, the day before evacuation, Hackett was severely wounded in the stomach and thigh.

Following an emergency field operation in a Red Cross hospital, he was spirited to the DUTCH UNDERGROUND where he slowly recuperated and later escaped to England.

This then is Hackett's story of 'I was a Stranger' - a personal involved record of the Dutch resistance movement in a style which reflects spiritual sincerity to the unspoken men and women who so courageously and selflessly harboured, protected, nursed, befriended and finally organised his escape.

The shocking thing about this book is the humility of the author. One just does not expect a BRIGADIER (indeed a General) to be so frank in expressing such pure simple and basic feelings. Military machines would seem to cultivate vanity, pride, pomp and circumstance - all conspiciously and refreshingly absent in his story.

The author details his microcosmic world in the village of EDE. The family structures and hierarchy, the characters and the relationship; his changing lifestyle and priorities, the single minded, almost spiritual ambition for recovering and escape; the courage, simplicity and strength of the DUTCH resistance.

And his successful escape. Twenty years later (as NATO North Western Commander) Hackett contributed to a film record by the Dutch on Escape Route 'BIESBOSCH' a record of that very route he travelled by BOAT, BICYCLE and FOOT.

It is interesting to note that this book is published in 1977 - 32 years after the event as a shortened record of a narrative written in 1945. It is also interesting to note that the sentiments expressed and the virtues described are current and fresh.

Something else that has not changed is bureaucracy. In his capacity as the only surviving senior officer of the 4th Parachute Brigade, Brigadier Hackett gained testimonials and recommendations concerning acts of valour and awards of military decorations to be smuggled back to England.

But nothing could happen, because they were not submitted on the proper form and if they were transcribed onto the proper form there was no originator to sign them! Catch 22!

D. O'L.

Good shot for uniform enthusiasts of a group of Afrika Korps officers. Note goggles worn by all three men.

Even a war does not prevent the niceties of civilisation, as proved by these Luftwaffe pilots who seem to be enjoying their meal in the summer sunshine.

Let's make hay, etc., or perhaps there aren't many Chinese laundries on the steppes . . . SS sniper during the Battle of Kursk.

Roundels for RAF and stars for USAAF victories on the rudder of this FW 190A of Josef Wurmheller, the Staffel Kapitan of 9/JG 2. The pilot is wearing a Luftwaffe officer's flight blouse which is blue/grey in colour.

Bomb aimer of an He III at his bombsight. The steel helmet was standard issue to all Luftwaffe bomber crews. The man's kapok-filled life jacket, oxygen mask and parachute harness are all shown to advantage in this picture which has probably been posed.

World War 2 Photo Albums

We reproduce here some photos from Patrick Stephens series of photo albums which have been taken from the Bundesarchiv in Koblenz. The first four titles in the series are now on sale at £2.50 (or £3.95 casebound). They are No. 1 - Panzers in the Desert; No. 2 - German Bombers over England; No. 3 - Waffen SS in Russia; No. 4 - Fighters Defending the Reich. Each book has over 150 photos chosen for clarity, quality, interest and atmosphere. They give an insight and minute details of value to the student of military history and the modeller. Almost all are "new" photos and will cause a flurry of hot debate among the cognoscenti.

C. L.

MODELLING MILITARY VEHICLES. Bruce Quarrie. Patrick Stephens Ltd. £4.50.

Having studied *Modelling Military Vehicles* edited by Bruce Quarrie, I was most impressed and overawed by the precise workmanship and skill required to build such beautiful military vehicles as illustrated in this book.

Being involved in model making myself for the past nine years, I appreciate this fine book is not suitable for the one-off enthusiast as it is too technical for amateurs. Much time must be devoted to a planned assembly technique which can only be acquired with experience, self discipline and perhaps a military background.

The making and assembling of plastic models differs significantly with the mild steel military models made by my 2nd year fitting and turning class where 24 SWG and various mild steel sections are used. The manufacture of these models necessitates the availability of a well equipped machine shop to cater for the variety of machining processes involved and the ability of the student to work from detail working drawings. The processes include, turning, milling, drilling, reamering, screwing and tapping, fitting, gas welding, buffing and finally oxidising.

This project is guaranteed to hold and sustain the interest of engineering students and personally my class aim at superceding the previous classes in their choice of vehicle and appearance of their finished product.

This book, however, I would recommend to schools and private model makers for possessing some excellent ideas, method and guidance.

Dick R. Butler.

"NEA" Emmanuelle Ansan. Mayflower. 85p + VAT.

This ninety three and a half penny dreadful is the latest offering from the authoress of 'Emmanuelle' and 'Emmanuelle 2'. It is subtitled 'A Young Emmanuelle'.

This book is really poor porn dressed in intellectual pretentions and it has many of the hackneyed characters, locations and implausibilities one associates with the French 'weepie'. If it were a cup of tea I would have taken a sip or two, spat out, and emptied the cup down the sink. And run the taps.

T.C.L.

"WHEN THE KISSING HAD TO STOP" Constantine Fitzgibbon. Panther Granada Publishing 95p + VAT.

This book, when first published in 1960, must have generated a tremendous amount of interest with its account of the manipulation of world politics to achieve a Soviet takeover of Britain. Since then however, we have become very familiar with factual, and not fictional, accounts of countries involving themselves in the internal affairs of weaker countries to satisfy their own cynical foreign policies. Accordingly the book loses somewhat the impact it had in 1960 but it still makes for compulsive reading.

The story begins simply enough with an account of demonstrations by the British public against the placing of American nuclear missiles in Britain. The Russians encourage their opposition by promising to withdraw her missiles from Poland. The plot developes very skillfully with the manipulation of weak politicians by the Soviets, the use of agitation (including an Irishman) to create chaos, until the institutions of democracy are weakened to such an extent that the Russians finally accomplish their takeover with little opposition.

One complaint I would have about the book is that everything is black or white with no shades of grey evident. The Soviets and other supporters are totally evil while those opposing them are similar to St. George slaying the dragon. This attitude tends to spoil what is otherwise a very engrossing book.

P. Y.

THE PENGUIN DICTIONARY OF BRITISH NATURAL HISTORY. Richard and Maisie Fitter. Allen Lane. £5.50.

Anyone interested in this subject is already familiar with the name Fitter and so will expect the highest standards from this revised edition of a work first published over a decade ago. Students, naturalists and everyone who loves the countryside will find the dictionary invaluable. It lists thousands of species of animals, birds, butterflies, fishes, flowers, insects, trees etc., and there are notes on habitat, and definitions of words relating to the subjects covered. An index of species and clear diagrams are included.

F. W.

UNIFORMS OF THE PENINSULAR WAR 1807-1814. Philip Haythornthwaite. Michael Chappell. Blandford Press Ltd. £4.25.

This book depicts and describes in the usual fashion uniforms of many lesser known units, particularly the armies allied to the French, as well as the controversial army of Napoleon's brother, Joseph, who was "elected" King of Spain. Britain, France, Spain and Portugal are adequately covered and thanks to Mr. Chappell's skilful artwork, the uniforms not only capture the atmosphere of the time but give a realistic insight of what the troops looked like during this wretched campaign. Most appear devoid of glamour, and, in many cases, patched, battered and bleeding. The 64 colour plates contain 152 different uniforms and the 6 half tone plates contain 12 uniforms.

Of Irish interest is the Colour-Sergeant of the 87th Foot (Prince of Wales's Own Irish Regiment); an Officer with colour of the Provisional Battalion de Roll-Dillon; an Officer of the Regiment Irlanda wearing the sky-blue uniform which replaced the red in 1802 and lastly a very spirited Voltigeur of the Regiment Irlandaise. The 27th Foot (Inniskilling Regiment) and the 88th Foot (Connaught Rangers) also served in the Peninsula and are recorded in the Appendix on page 161, together with a mention of their facings and lace.

General Lefebvre-Desnoettes and Lieut. General Sir John Moore, immortalised in verse by Charles Wolfe, are two personalities which appear.

F. G. T.

THE GLIDER WAR. James E. Mrazek. Robert Hale & Co. Clerkenwell Green, London EC1. £6.00.

This is the story of the fighting Glider and of the soldiers and Glider pilots who flew into combat. As the Author states "The Glider had no wartime predecessor" in contrast to many weapons used during WW II. For this reason this story is different, no one had ever flown a glider into combat before the 2nd World War. Only two nations Germany and Russia had considered the possibilities of utilising the Glider as a weapon of war. It was the Germans who made it a reality when on 10th May 1940 Glider borne troops landed on the impregnable (as it was thought) Belgian Fort of Eben Emael and successfully took it. So began the Era of the Glider. This work traces the use of the Glider in Germany and the attempts by Britain and the United States to bridge the gap. The use of the glider is recounted in Crete, Sicily, Burma, Normandy, Arnhem, Bastogne, Russia and the Philippines together with the famous rescue of Mussolini. Illustrated with over 60 photographs and 17 maps it brings back to life (to quote the Blurb) the spirit of a war style that will never be seen again.

A. P. K.

THE PROPHECIES OF ST. MALACHY AND ST. COLUMBKILLE. Peter Bander. Colin Smythe, Buckinghamshire. £1.75.

Our Planning Section would do well to read Peter Bander's book for St. Malachy's prophecies as laid down therein provide for only three more Popes before 'the dreadful Judge will judge the people'. Constant perusers of the seniority list might be interested too!

Mr. Bander tells of a lovely rumour which circulated in Rome during the conclave that elected Pope John. Malachy had used *Pastor et Nauta* (Pastor and mariner) to predict that Pope. Cardinal Spellman of New York was said to have hired a boat, filled it with sheep and sailed up and down the river Tiber.

St. Columbkille (Mr. Bander's spelling) ends his long prophecies to St. Brendan with the line:

More unjust and iniquitous shall be every succeeding race of men! Close to the bone that one!

Some take the prophecies seriously, some don't. This nicely presented paperback gives immense pleasure, whatever the approach.

P. O'F.

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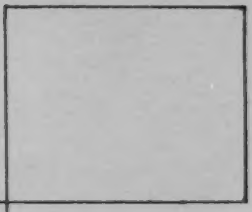

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